



David S. Walker Library
Tallahassee

Leon County

July, 1971 - date of photo

Negatives filed: Division of Archives & History

1. Park Avenue Historic District
2. Tallahassee, Florida
3. Unknown
4. 1971
5. Division of Archives, History and
Records Management
6. David S. Walker Library, North & East
Facades, 209 E. Park Avenue
7. Photo No. 8

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE	
Florida	
COUNTY	
Leon	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME			
COMMON: Walker (Davids) Library			
AND/OR HISTORIC: The University Library			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
209 East Park Avenue			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Tallahassee			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Florida	12	Leon	073
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Millie Fryman			
DATE OF PHOTO: July 1, 1971			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Division of Archives, History, and Records Mgt.			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
North and east elevations			

No ITER

LE 184

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Walker, David S., Library

AND/OR COMMON

The University Library

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

209 East Park Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Tallahassee

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

Florida

CODE

12

COUNTY

Leon

CODE

073

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

☒ OTHER: library**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Trustees of the Walker Library Board

STREET & NUMBER

c/o Walker Library, 209 East Park Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Tallahassee

VICINITY OF

STATE

Florida

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Leon County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Tallahassee

STATE

Florida

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

See continuation sheet

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

42

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Representation in Existing Surveys:

- 1) Historic Sites Survey 1940, 1936-40
- 2) Tallahassee Historic Buildings Survey, 1967
- 3) Tallahassee Capitol Center Survey, 1975

All survey records on file at Division of Archives, History
and Records Management, Department of State, The Capitol,
Tallahassee, Florida.

7 DESCRIPTION

CEB4

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The red brick building is a combination of architectural styles. Such historical eclecticism was a recognizable feature of turn of the century architecture in America. If the architect, whose name is not known, had any one style foremost in his mind, it was that of the Neo-Classical Revival. The overall effect of the building is in the spirit of Roman temple architecture, and the details, which are classical in inspiration, reflect Roman rather than Greek order. The predominant traits of the two columns which stand on either side of the front entrance correspond to the Tuscan order; however, the capitals, which are currently painted red in contrast to the buff concrete of the column shafts, are of the Composite order. The building was obviously a freestanding cubic block when built; it is now close against the wall of a more modern building on the west side. The wall surfaces are smooth and plain except for two shallow pilasters on the east side wall. XThe thin architrave and plain frieze are topped by a rather massive cornice. XThe roof is flat; around the edge is a solid parapet interrupted by a white balustrade over the shallow portico area in the front. The wide front doorway is linteled; Xall of the windows have rounded arches with keystones which repeat the acanthus leaf design of the capitals. The two-story double-hung windows, of which there are two in back (south) and side (east) facades and two and one-half in the front (north) facade take up a large portion of the wall space. Each sash is composed of four large panes; the top two panes in each window are rounded so that together they form a semi-circle. XOver the double doorway is an incomplete entablature, lacking the architrave. XOn the frieze is the lettering "Library." XThe entablature rests not on columns but on corbels. Above the door is a round-arched window which is an abbreviated version of the two-story windows which are present elsewhere. The iron railings on the steps leading up to the doorway are fairly recent additions (1960's).

The interior of the building is essentially two stories in height; around the single large room of which the interior is composed is a second story balcony which accommodates a narrow walkway on the interior side and a bookcase range along the outside walls. The overhang of the balcony provides a one-story area around the outside of the room on the lower level; this area is used as the stack area. The central area of the room is large enough to accommodate a long library table and four chairs on each side, with one at each end. At the south end of the room (opposite the doorway) is a brick fireplace wall with a brick mantel. The walls are otherwise white plaster. The windows are framed in dark wood which repeats the exterior arch and keystone design. The floors are of hardwood. The ceiling, the underside of the balcony, and the skylight area are paneled in very narrow wood stripping; in the skylight, the wood is light in color,

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but the rest is dark. X The skylight is one of the most striking features of the interior. X The opening forms a rectangle (c. 10' x 9'?) at the ceiling level and is recessed upwards to a height of about six feet. The lower four or so feet are sloping inward to a second opening which is about 5 x 4 feet in dimensions. Clerestory windows rise in a perpendicular fashion around this rectangle for a height of about 18 inches. The uppermost ceiling has a triangular design worked in the wood stripping. The skylight provides a good supply of light for the interior. Other lighting is provided by gaslight fixtures converted into electric lighting.

Another striking feature of the interior is the balcony balustrade. Each baluster gently curves into a bulge in its lower half. An optical illusion is created which makes the railing appear from below to be a good bit higher than it actually is. The stairway leading up to the balcony area is quite narrow and very steep.

The general visual effect of the interior is created in good measure by the articles displayed around the room and the portraits of famous Floridians. The prized possession is a chair which is said to have been the property of Prince Achille Murat (a nephew of Napoleon) who lived in the area.

45

8 SIGNIFICANCE

H. J. KLUTHO - THOUGHT TO BE ARCHITECT.
SEE THE ARCHITECTURE OF HENRY

JOHN KLUTHO, by ROBERT BROWARD
pp 26-27

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PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
___PREHISTORIC	___ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	___COMMUNITY PLANNING	___LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	___RELIGION
___1400-1499	___ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	___CONSERVATION	___LAW	___SCIENCE
___1500-1599	___AGRICULTURE	___ECONOMICS	___LITERATURE	___SCULPTURE
___1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	___MILITARY	___SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
___1700-1799	___ART	___ENGINEERING	___MUSIC	___THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	___COMMERCE	___EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	___PHILOSOPHY	___TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	___COMMUNICATIONS	___INDUSTRY	___POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	___OTHER (SPECIFY)
		___INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Lib. Assoc.: 1884 BUILDER/ARCHITECT
Present bldg.: 1903

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The present Walker Library building is worthy of being entered on the National Register on three counts. It is a good example of the historical eclecticism of architectural styles which was prevalent at the beginning of the twentieth century and as such it is unique in Tallahassee. Secondly, the contents of the building--both books and memorabilia--are of intrinsic as well as historic value. And finally, the social and educational functions of the library aided significantly in advancing the cultural level of the community of Tallahassee, especially in the turn-of-the-century era.

David S. Walker was a lawyer and public servant whose political career culminated in the years 1866-1868, at which time he served as governor of Florida. He was noted for his strong interest in public education and was especially active in this area in the 1850's. As ex officio Superintendent of Common Schools (a responsibility which fell to him when he became Registrar of Public Lands in 1852), Walker worked to make public education available in Florida. Motivated by this concern, Walker took steps to provide Tallahassee with a library. In 1883, he made available three rooms on the second story of a two-story building he had just erected at the corner of Monroe and McCarty Streets (now Monroe and Park) for use as a library rent-and-tax-free on the condition that local citizens form a library association and raise \$100 for furniture and equipment. These stipulations were fulfilled within a few months, and in March, 1884, the rooms were opened under the name "University Library." (The name referred to the Florida University founded in Tallahassee in 1883, an institution which was later disestablished in favor of the present University of Florida at Gainesville.)

Several years after Walker's death in 1891, the library underwent a change of name and location. The corner building was purchased in 1903 for business purposes; the widow and daughter of David S. Walker deeded a lot to the Library Association on which a new library building was to be constructed with the proceeds of the sale of the old premises. This 30 x 50 foot lot was located behind the old building; the new structure erected received the name currently used, "The David S. Walker Library." For certain segments of Tallahassee society, the library continued to be an important part of local social and educational life. The balcony area was used for quiet recreation (such as

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chess-playing) and conversation for members; fund-raising projects enlivened community life. Thus the David S. Walker Library played an integral and significant role in the developing Florida community of Tallahassee for many decades.

Functioning as a subscription institution in the pattern common at that stage of American library development, the Walker Library has been in continuous existence since 1884. It is the fourth oldest library in Florida; the oldest (in St. Augustine) was founded only in 1871, indicating that the Walker Library was in the vanguard of the spread of such facilities throughout Florida. No free public library was available in Tallahassee or in Leon County until 1955. The Walker Library clearly served a useful function in the Tallahassee community for several decades although its use was limited to those who could afford the subscription membership. Some city and county funds have been available for use by the Walker Library Association from time to time, but the chief financial resource has remained the subscribed funds. Many of the books have been provided by donation. A survey of the contents of the collection made in 1965 by a trained librarian revealed a sizeable number of out-of-print and even rare books and periodicals among the uncatalogued holdings. If systematized and catalogued according to standard library procedures, this collection could be of use to students in several disciplines. Articles of antiquarian interest are also present in the library.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 76 1 20 0 3 37 0 67 0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C
O
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mildred L. Fryman, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Div. of Archives, History & Records Mgmt.

DATE

February, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Dept. of State, The Capitol

TELEPHONE

904-488-7365

CITY OR TOWN

Tallahassee

STATE

Florida

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Robert Williams

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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McCullough, Mildred White. "The David S. Walker Library," Apalachee (Tallahassee), 1946, 13-18.

Paisley, Joy. An Untitled Report to Mrs. Jack T. Dobson, Florida Heritage Foundation. Typewritten. Tallahassee, Florida, July 10, 1967. On file in Division of Archives, History, and Records Management, Tallahassee, Florida.

Stelle, Helen Virginia. Florida Library Survey: 1935. n.p.: Florida Library Association, 1935.

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Tebeau, Charlton W. A History of Florida. Coral Gables, Florida: University of Miami Press, 1971.

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ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE FLORIDA

Date Entered JUN 22 1976

Name

Location

Walker, David S., Library

Tallahassee
Leon County

Also Notified

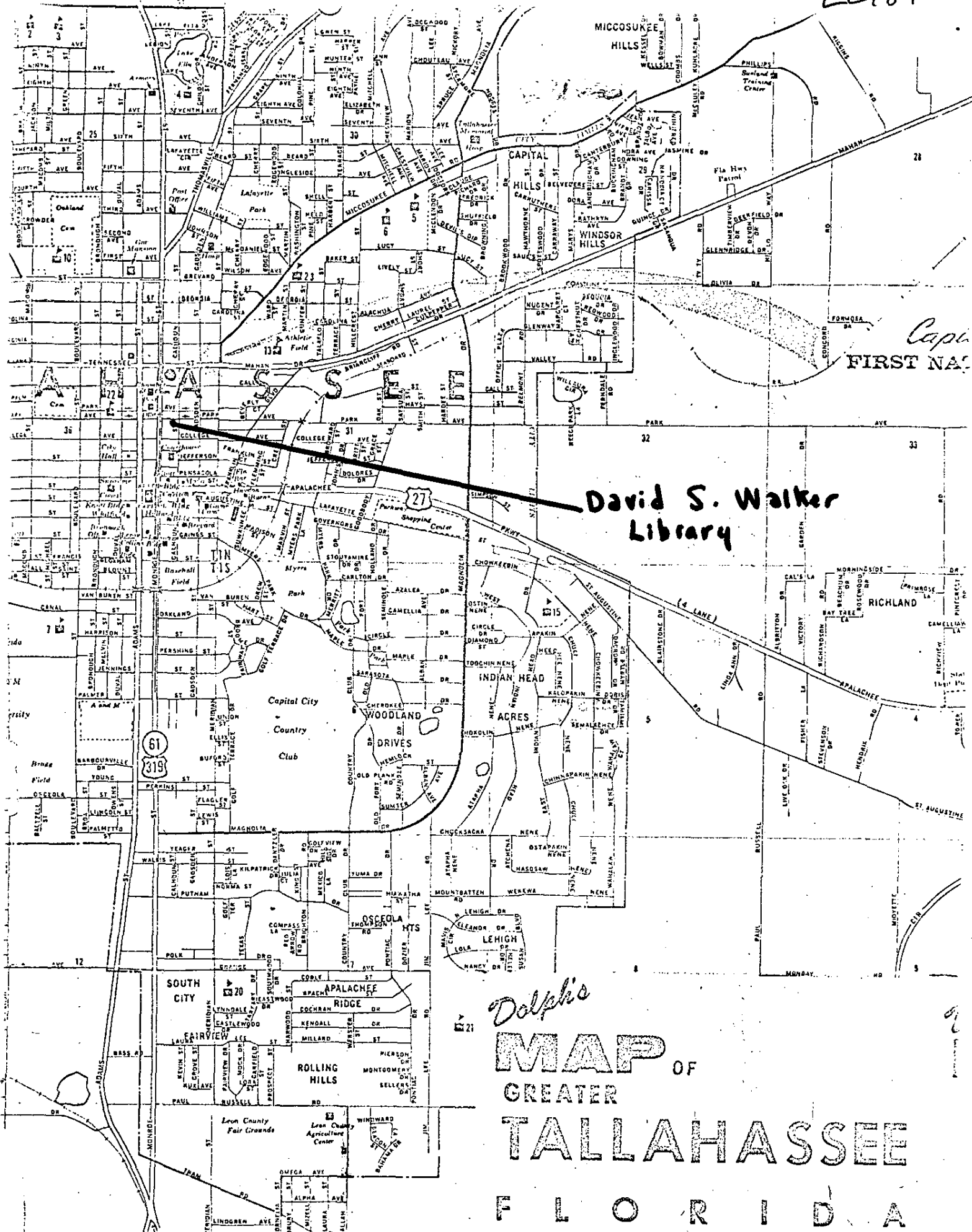
Hon. Lawton Chiles
Hon. Richard (Dick) Stone
Hon. Don Fuqua

COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION

INT: 2950-75

SEE SITE FILE STAFF FOR
ORIGINAL PHOTO(S) OR MAP(S)

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David S. Walker
Library

Dolph's
MAP OF
GREATER
TALLAHASSEE
FLORIDA

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Please do not send this map to anyone - it is a secret - please do not send it to anyone